December, 2006 as against Rs. 216.77 crore *i.e.* 68.83% and Rs. 343.07 crore *i.e.* 56.72% as on 31st December, 2005 against the funds available with them for SSA.

(c) The regular monitoring of physical and financial progress by the Ministry has improved fund utilization.

Institutional framework of EDUSAT

2135. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered it appropriate to set up an institutional framework to integrate, promote, coordinate and optimize the capability and capacity of EDUSAT, the country's Space system, for curriculum based distance-education, enrichment, training and developmental communication;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the details of the existing institutional mechanisms between his Ministry and its associate bodies like UGC, Professional Bodies, Open Universities and State Institutions to effectively use this important space resource to augment and strengthen the existing methods of education, training and enrichment;

(d) whether there is an assessment of the adequacy of the existing institutional mechanism; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) A core group under the Chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was set up to act as a focal point for utilizing the EDUSAT facility.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.